

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 12327 282243Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05 TRSE-00 ICA-20 NSC-05
OES-09 OMB-01 PA-02 EA-12 /093 W
-----006678 291729Z /42

R 282232Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1674
DEAHQS WASHDC

UNCLAS MEXICO 12327

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, MX

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS - PRESS REPORT ON HEROIN SOURCES

1. TWO MEXICO CITY DAILIES (EL SOL DE MEXICO AND EL UNIVERSAL) ON JULY 27 CARRIED UPI PRESS REPORT BY CHERYL ARVIDSON ON HEROIN SOURCES FOR U.S. MARKET. EL SOL RAN ITEM UNDER HEADING, "MEXICO IS NO LONGER PRIME SOURCE OF HEROIN" WHILE EL UNIVERSAL USED HEADING, "HAWAII AND GUAM ARE THE KEY POINTS FOR CONTRABAND HEROIN FOR THE UNITED STATES".

2. FREE TRANSLATION OF ITEM, DATED WASHINGTON, JULY 26:

(A) "HAWAII AND GUAM HAVE BECOME THE KEY POINTS FOR HEROIN DESTINED FOR THE UNITED STATES AND HAVE REPLACED MEXICO AS SUPPLIERS, ACCORDING TO THE HOUSE NARCOTICS COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE MEMBERS RECOMMENDED SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CUSTOMS PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO HAWAII AND GUAM TO HELP LOCAL OFFICIALS CONTROL THE HEROIN AND COCAINE TRAFFIC.

(B) "THE COMMITTEE CHARACTERIZED THE DISCOVERY AS THE PRELIMINARY RESULT OF A 17-DAY STUDY OF THE PRINCIPAL UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MEXICO 12327 282243Z

EMBARKATION PORTS IN HAWAII, GUAM, THAILAND, AND HONG KONG.

(C) "DEMOCRATIC REPRESENTATIVE LESTER WOLFF SAID THAT HAWAII AND GUAM HAD ACQUIRED PROMINENCE AS THE DISTRIBUTION POINTS FOR HEROIN FROM THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE AND COCAINE FROM LATIN AMERICA BECAUSE OF THEIR LOCATION AND THE "SUCCESSFUL SEED (SIC) ERADICATION PROGRAM IN

MEXICO." WOLFF SAID THAT THE CHANGE OF HEROIN TRAFFICKING ROUTES DEMONSTRATES "THAT THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS IS A GUERRILA WAR" WHICH INVOLVES DISRUPTING TRADITIONAL ROUTES ONLY TO MAKE THEM MORE EXPENSIVE AND DIFFICULT. (D) "CONGRESSMAN DANIEL AKAKA SAID THAT THE LOCATION OF HAWAII HAD MADE IT A "SIGNIFICANT LINK" IN AIR AND SEA NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING. HE ADDED THAT HONOLULU AIRPORT RANKS SECOND IN THE COUNTRY FOR FOREIGN ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES, AND THAT ANOTHER 60 AGENTS ARE NEEDED TO DO AN EFFECTIVE JOB AT THE AIRPORT. "I AM TRULY SURPRISED", SAID AKAKA, "THAT THERE IS ONLY ONE DOG ASSIGNED TO COVER THE AIRPORT, THE PORT, AND THE POSTAL INSTALLATIONS."

(E) "THE COMMITTEE SAID THAT THE RESIDENTS OF GUAM FEEL THEIR LIVES THREATENED DAILY BY THE TRAFFIC."

3. COMMENT: REPORT THAT MEXICO IS NO LONGER PRIME SOURCE OF HEROIN IS, IF TRUE, MOST ENCOURAGING. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY CLARIFICATION OR SUPPORTIVE DATA FROM COMMITTEE OR EXECUTIVE BRANCH SOURCES AS WE ANTICIPATE GOM INQUIRIES. LUCEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS, HEROIN, PRESS COMMENTS, DRUG TRAFFIC
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MEXICO12327
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780312-0175
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780710/aaaaahwa.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9533c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1843954
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - PRESS REPORT ON HEROIN SOURCES
TAGS: SNAR, SOPN, MX
To: STATE DEA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9533c06a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014